



NEWS From The 190th Air Refueling Wing

Home of the *Kansas Coyotes*



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190th ARW prepares to stand up new medical mission

FORBES FIELD, Kan. – Last week the 190th ARW, Kansas Air National Guard received shipment necessary to stand up its newest mission - an Expeditionary Medical Support System (EMEDS).

The 190th ARW will soon have the capability of providing a front line, field hospital in the event of catastrophic disaster or terrorist attacks where local facilities are overwhelmed with victims. The 190th ARW is the only organization in the country with an EMEDS dedicated to Homeland Security.

The 190th is also home to the 73rd Civil Support Team. The team is an Air and Army National Guard unit whose mission is to support civil authorities when dealing with Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High Yield Explosives by identifying agents/substances, assessing current and projected consequences, advising on response measures, and assisting with appropriate requests for state support.

EMEDS revolutionized portable hospitals, and have been utilized by the military since the late 1990's. The concept of the EMEDS is modular packages, tailored to meet the situation. EMEDS is divided into three increments: EMEDS Basic, EMEDS +10 Bed and EMEDS +25 Bed. The first module is a SPEARR (Small Portable Expeditionary Aeromedical Rapid Response) Team, a portable surgical unit which can be transported via helicopter for an immediate response. Also in the first module is the EMEDS Basic, which consists of an emergency room and an operating room. The second module is the +10 Bed, which provides 10 in-patient beds. The third module is the +25 Bed, providing 25 additional in-patient beds.

The EMEDS provides the ability to perform surgery, dental services, laboratory services, pharmacy services, supply, and in-patient care. While military personnel are utilized to staff an EMEDS in war time situations, the 190th ARW EMEDS can utilize civilian health care personnel or a combination of both depending on the situation. All of the functions found in a hospital are found in an EMEDS, only in a more compact form.

The 190th ARW EMEDS will be operational in the near future, and will be accessed through the Adjutant General's Military Assistance to Civil Authorities.

For more information on EMEDS or the 190th ARW, contact Capt. Chris Hill, Community Manager at (785) 861-4593.

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